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The Montana Legislative Process:

Instruction for Montana's Youth

Teacher Packet

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TEACHER INFORMATION

This educational unit should be helpful for instructing the students of Montana about the State Capitol and the legislative process. The pamphlet is directed toward middle school level. High school teachers may wish to include a more detailed explanation of the process. Elementary teachers will need to provide more instructional support and concentrate primarily on the general concepts.

Several of the questions and activities are designed to develop critical thinking skills and are not intended to influence the political tendencies of students. Discussion is encouraged which accepts a variety of opinions and viewpoints.

Permission is granted to copy these materials as needed for educational purposes in Montana schools, public or private.

Quiz #1 covers sections entitled THE MONTANA CAPITOL, THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE, SESSIONS, and LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP.

Quiz #2 covers THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM.

Quiz #3 covers HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW.

Quiz #4 covers COMMUNICATION WITH LEGISLATORS and AT THE CAPITOL.

The Test covers all information included in the pamphlet, including VOCABULARY, and provides several essay questions which can be used as part of the test or as long-term assignments.

The Salute to Schools program consists of four components, one of which is this educational unit. You and your students are encouraged to participate in the other three:

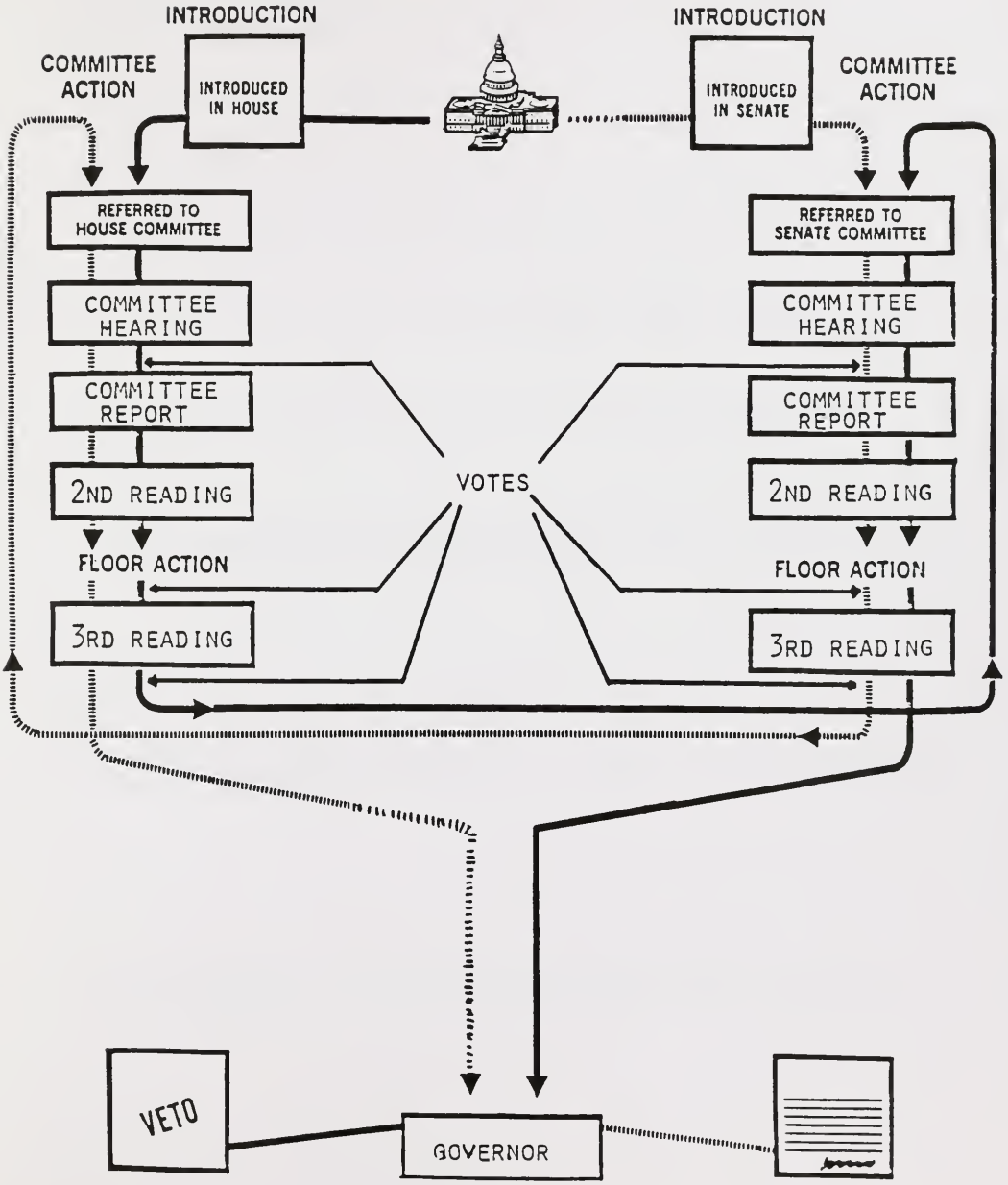
1. Attend the Legislature on the day your county will be recognized. School recognition day schedules are available at the Legislative Council, Historical Society, and Salute to Schools news releases.

2. Submit a one-page project dealing with the history of your area or school for a Montana Sampler, which will contain stories, poems, pictures, interviews, biographies, essays, or any other medium that can be contained in the 8 1/2 by 11 albums.

3. Tour the Capitol, Montana Historical Society Museum, or other Helena attractions and receive a souvenir of the centennial year.

Be sure to call the Montana Historical Society (444-4794) to arrange tours and visit the Legislature.

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



QUIZ #1 30 points Name_____

1. How many Senators? How long are their terms? (2 pts)

2. How many Representatives? How long are their terms? (2)

3. When and with what material was the Capitol built? (4)

4. Which chamber remains as it was originally built? (1)

5. Do the legislators know how others voted? Explain. (2)

6. What kinds of paintings will you see throughout the Capitol? (2)

7. What four Montana heroic inhabitants would you choose to have painted in the Rotunda? (4)

8. When does the Montana Legislature meet? (2)

9. What is a majority party? (1) What are four advantages of becoming the majority party? (4)

10. List the Senate and House leadership titles. (6) For extra credit, can you list the names of the leaders for this session?

QUIZ #2 25 points Name_____

1. Why is the committee system important? (2)

2. Name the four types of committees and give a brief explanation of what they do. (8)

3. What does a bill's sponsor do in a committee meeting? (3)

4. What helpful hints could you give to someone who wanted to testify for or against a bill? (4)

5. Why is the committee chairperson important? (3)

6. What actions can a committee take concerning a bill? (5)

QUIZ #3 25 points Name_____

1. Where are appropriation bills introduced? Where are non-appropriation bills introduced? (2 pts)

2. What does HB 38 mean? SB 88? How did they get these numbers? (3)

3. How can the ideas of citizens influence legislators to introduce certain bills? (3)

4. What do you think is the purpose of printing bills on different colors for different readings? (2)

5. What happens if the Governor doesn't sign a bill that comes to him? What would have happened in 1965? (2)

6. If you want to find the exact words in a particular law, where can you look? (1)

7. On your own paper, write an imaginary bill, such as "SB 34: A law making it unlawful to serve soft drinks in school cafeterias." Describe the steps that the bill would go through to become a law, or, if you wish, to fail to become a law. (12)

QUIZ # 4 20 points Name_____

1. Why might personal letters to legislators be better than form letters? (2 pts)

2. What title should come before the name of a Senator or Representative in your inside address? (1)

3. Why do you think it is important to tell the sources of your information in a letter to your legislator? (2)

4. If you had a choice, would you prefer writing or telephoning your legislator? Why? (4)

5. When are the best times to write legislators or sponsors concerning the bills you want to influence? (2)

6. Explain why lobbying can be helpful to legislators and law-making in general. (2)

7. Where are the Senate and House Chambers? (1)

8. Where are the galleries? (1)

9. List five sources of information about bills available in the Capitol. (5)

Additional Activities

1. Play a game of "Legislate," assigning students parts and asking them to introduce bills, debate them, and vote on them. Divide the class into committees of four to six students each, allow the Speaker to assign a bill to each committee and conduct hearings. Testimony could be requested from people outside the class. Go through the process of How a Bill Becomes a Law. Teacher could be the Governor.

2. Have students write letters to their legislators.

3. By studying newspapers, have students keep track of certain bills. Let each student pick a bill he or she will track.

4. Write biographies of legislators from your district or throughout the state.

5. Study biographies of historical figures represented in the Capitol, and assign each student to say something about each person when you see his/her statue, painting, etc. on your trip.

TEST: THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE Name_____

Multiple Choice

____1. The Montana Senate is composed of a) 25 b) 50 c) 75 d) 100 members.

____2. The Montana House of Representatives is composed of a) 25 b) 50 c) 75 d) 100 members.

____3. Construction began on the Montana Capitol in a) 1855 b) 1899 c) 1915 d) 1958.

____4. The subject of most paintings in the Montana Capitol is a) history b) landscape c) still life d) varied.

____5. The Montana Legislature meets every a) six months b) year c) two years d) three years.

____6. The official who controls the order of business in each chamber is the a) Majority Whip b) Majority Leader c) President or Speaker d) Governor.

____7. The majority of legislative work is done in a) business sessions of the House or Senate b) committees c) the Supreme Court d) the Governor's Office.

____8. Committees that try to resolve differences in bills from the Senate and the House are called a) standing b) select c) joint d) conference committees.

____9. Informal time committees use to discuss bills without public input is called a) conferencing b) secret session c) business meeting d) executive session.

____10. The committee chairperson is important because a) he assigns bills to his committee b) he can decide if the public can testify c) he can set the order of the bills to be discussed d) all of these.

____11. The entire chamber acts as a "Committee of the Whole" during the a) first reading b) second reading c) third reading d) engrossment.

____12. In order to override the Governor's veto, the Legislature must pass a motion to override by a) simple majority vote b) two-thirds majority vote c) three-fourths majority vote.

____13. Most non-appropriation bills that become law are implemented a) immediately b) on October 1 of the legislative year c) a few years after being passed d) the following January.

____14. The systematic arrangement of all permanent state statutes is in a) Laws of Montana b) Status Sheets c) Daily Calendar d) Montana Code Annotated.

____15. The proper form of address for a Senator or Representative is a) The Honorable b) Mr. or Ms. c) Your Grace d) The Venerable.

____16. Lobbying a) is a legitimate function b) generally requires a license c) provides additional information to legislators d) all of these.

____17. The Senate and House Chambers are located on the Capitol's a) first b) second c) third d) fourth floor.

____18. You can watch the proceedings of the Legislature from the a) galleries b) chambers c) closed-circuit televisions d) Rotunda.

____19. The high school students who carry messages to the legislators are called a) sergeants b) gophers c) pages d) cubs.

____20. If the sign "Two-Hour Rule in Effect" is posted at the chamber entrance, it means that a) the public is not allowed in b) business starts in two hours c) the legislators can chat with constituents d) lobbyists are working in the chambers.

True or False

____21. The Senate completely changes membership every four years.

____22. Each of Montana's counties is a legislative district.

____23. The Senate chamber was remodeled in the 1960s.

____24. The House of Representatives is in an addition to the Capitol.

____25. When a bill is voted upon during third reading, no amendments may be considered.

____26. The length of a regular legislative session is 90 legislative days.

____27. Every legislator is a member of at least four committees.

____28. Standing committees are committees that are so large that the members cannot sit down at the tables provided.

____29. In a committee hearing, proponents (supporters) of a bill are heard before opponents (those against it).

____30. A committee has only two options: to recommend that a bill be passed or to recommend "Do Not Pass."

____31. Testifiers must be 18 years old and Montana citizens.

____32. Appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

____33. The sponsor of a bill assigns it a number.

____34. SB 21 means Senate Bill number twenty-one.

____35. During second reading, the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate steps down and assigns another legislator to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

____36. A bill must be passed before its amendments can be voted upon.

____37. A bill must pass both the House and the Senate in the same version before it can go to the Governor.

____38. A bill must be signed by the Governor to become a law.

____39. There are 99 volumes of books in the Montana Codes.

____40. The information desk in the Rotunda has seating charts of both chambers and committee hearing schedules.

Fill in the Blanks

41. A proposed change, addition, or deletion to a bill is called a/an _____.

42. A group of legislators with a common interest is a/an _____.

43. After second reading, putting the bill in final form, with all amendments, is called _____.

44. After passing both houses, reproducing the bill in final form is called _____.

45. To present evidence for or against a bill at a hearing is to _____.

46. The method by which people or groups with special concerns, needs, or opinions try to persuade legislators to support their policies is called _____ _____.

47. Two sources you can check to see which bills will be considered by each chamber during the day's business are

_____

48. and _____.

49. Copies of bills and "Status Sheets" can be purchased in the

Capitol's _____.

50. The figure on the top of the Capitol Dome is called

_____.

Essay Questions

1. Describe the Capitol, its history, its decor, what impresses you about it, the statues and paintings, its floor plan, or any aspects that you would like to report.

2. Trace the steps that a bill takes in becoming law.

3. Describe the legislative leadership, including how each leader is chosen and what he or she is expected to do.

4. Explain the reason for the committee system and why it is important.

5. Explain how the Governor fits into the legislative process.

6. Explain how to write a letter to a legislator, including some helpful hints about what to say and when to write.

7. Explain lobbying and give your opinions about why it is good or bad, or both.

8. If you were going to the Legislature (again), what would you do to get the most out of your visit?

9. If you were a legislator, what job would you like to have (Majority Leader, committee chairperson, etc.); why would you be well-suited; and what would you want to accomplish?

10. What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of our legislative system in Montana?

QUIZ #1 30 points Key

1. How many Senators? How long are their terms? (2 pts)
   50 *4 years*

2. How many Representatives? How long are their terms? (2)
   100 *2 years*

3. When and with what material was the Capitol built? (4)
   It was built from 1899-1902 of Montana sandstone and was added to in 1912, using granite. (extra: dome is copper)

4. Which chamber remains as originally built and furnished? (1)
   The House of Representatives has not been remodeled.

5. Do the legislators know how others voted? Explain. (2)
   Yes, they can look at the electronic boards in the front of each chamber to see how everyone voted.

6. What kinds of paintings will you see throughout the Capitol? (2)
   The paintings are of historical characters or events and decorate the walls and ceilings. Many are the works of famous Montana artists like Russell and Paxson.

7. What four Montana heroic inhabitants would you choose to have painted in the Rotunda? (4)
   In reality, the paintings are of a prospector, trapper, Indian, and cowboy. Students may choose farmer, lumberjack, pioneer woman, missionary, or any type they feel important. This question should lead to discussion.

8. When does the Montana Legislature meet? (2)
   It meets every two years, on the odd-numbered years.

9. What is a majority party? (1) What are four advantages of becoming the majority party? (4)
   The majority party has the most members elected. It chooses the Majority Leaders who control the order of business, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Not only does it have leadership power, but voting power as well.

10. List the Senate and House leadership titles. (6) For extra credit, can you list the names of these people for this session?
    President & Pres. Pro Tempore of Senate *1/2 pt each*
    Speaker & Speaker Pro Tempore of House
    Majority Leaders of House & Senate
    Minority Leaders of House & Senate
    Majority Whips of House & Senate
    Minority Whips of House & Senate
    (Those leaders are chosen in November. Check newspaper.)

QUIZ #2 25 points Key

1. Why is the committee system important? (2)
   The majority of legislative work is done here. It allows some legislators to study some bills carefully and make recommendations to others.

2. Name the four types of committees and give a brief explanation of what they do. (8)
   Standing Committees are permanent and deal with specific topics. Select Committees are temporary and formed to study particular bills. Joint Committees are formed with members from both chambers and assigned to particular legislation. Conference committees, with three House and three Senate members, try to recommend amendments acceptable to both chambers (with a Free Conference Committee perhaps reworking the entire bill to achieve a compromise between chambers.)

3. What does a bill's sponsor do in a committee meeting? (3)
   The sponsor introduces and summarizes the bill; introduces the person responsible for the bill; and responds to testimony against the bill, trying to get a "do pass."

4. What helpful hints could you give to someone who wanted to testify for or against a bill? (4)
   Be brief, concise, and avoid repetition. Be present at the beginning of the meeting in case the order of witnesses has been changed. Sign in with the secretary. Use audio-visual aids if helpful. Make prior arrangements if planning a field trip for members.

5. Why is the committee chairperson important? (3)
   The chairperson sets the order of bills, the date they will be discussed, how much time will be allowed for testimony, and the order of the witnesses. These can be important factors.

6. What actions can a committee take concerning a bill? (5)
   The committee can recommend a "Do" or "Do Not Pass." They can amend the bill, then make recommendation to legislature. They can postpone action, call for further study, perhaps setting up a subcommittee, or recommend a substitute bill.

QUIZ #3 25 points *Key*

1. Where are appropriation bills introduced? Where are non-appropriation bills introduced? (2 pts)
   Appropriation bills are introduced in the House.
   Other bills can be introduced in either the House or Senate.

2. What does HB 38 mean? SB 88? How did they get these numbers? (3)
   House Bill (number) 38 Senate Bill 88
   The Chief Clerk assigns the number.

3. How can the ideas of citizens influence legislators to introduce certain bills? (3)
   Citizens can write letters or call the legislators.
   Citizens can belong to organizations that support certain types of legislation (like a wilderness group).
   Citizens can vote for candidates who promise to introduce bills they would like to see become law.
   Citizens can testify at committee hearings.

4. What do you think is the purpose of printing bills on different colors for different readings? (2)
   Legislators, reporters, and citizens can easily tell if the bill is in first, second, or third reading, etc. They could see if they have the latest copy.

5. What happens if the Governor doesn't sign a bill that comes to him? What would have happened in 1965? (2)
   The bill becomes law if he doesn't act on it within five days. Before 1965, the bill would have been "pocket vetoed."

6. If you want to find the exact words in a particular law, where can you look? (1)
   You could look in Laws of Montana, commonly called "Session Laws," or later, after they've been arranged systematically, in Montana Code Annotated.

7. On your own paper, write an imaginary bill, such as "SB 34: A law making it unlawful to serve soft drinks in school cafeterias." Describe the steps that the bill would go through to become a law, or, if you wish, to fail to become a law. (12)
   Briefly, the steps are introduction, assignment of number, drafting, first reading, committee hearing, second reading, engrossment, third reading, sending to other chamber and repetition of steps, enrollment, governor's signature, written as law. Students should elaborate.

QUIZ # 4 20 points *Key*

1. Why might personal letters to legislators be better than form letters? (2 pts)
   They may indicate that more effort was made, and therefore the citizen is truly concerned. They express personal, rather than group sentiments. On the other hand, some students could argue that form letters received in large numbers may be very influential, as they would be clearly written and represent a large block of voters.

2. What title should come before the name of a Senator or Representative in your inside address? (1)
   The Honorable

3. Why is it important to give your sources of information in a letter to your legislator? (2)
   The legislator would know how reliable the information is and perhaps go to that source for further facts. This question requires that students think out a possible reason, as the answer is not in the text.

4. If you had a choice, would you prefer writing or telephoning your legislator? Why? (4)
   Answers will vary.

5. When are the best times to write legislators or sponsors concerning the bills you want to influence? (2)
   Letters should be written to the sponsor before the committee hearing is held. Letters to legislators should be sent before the bill comes up on second reading.

6. Explain why lobbying can be helpful to legislators and law-making in general. (2)
   Lobbying can bring information to legislators. Lobbyists may be able to project the consequences of certain legislation that lawmakers may not have foreseen.

7. Where are the Senate and House Chambers? (1)
   On the third floor of the Capitol.

8. Where are the galleries? (1)
   On the fourth floor of the Capitol (balconies).

9. List five sources of information about bills available in the Capitol. (5)
   Blackboards and bulletin boards in the lobby, the Daily Agendas, the electronic billboards, the committee hearing schedules, the Status Sheets.

Teacher's Essay Guide

Depending upon the number of points you wish to include on the test, some of these essay questions could be added for work during class time or as a take-home section. Two or three questions could be added to make the test worth 100. Choosing at least one question from 1-6 and also one from 7-10 is recommended to allow a mix of objective and subjective writing. Values assigned to each question are flexible.

1. Describe the Capitol, its history, its decor, what impresses you about it, the statues and paintings, its floor plan, or any aspects that you would like to report.

   For students who have visited the Capitol, this answer could be varied and lengthy. For those who have not, judge answers by the description in the booklets and any pictures you have shown them in class. (May be assigned 10-25 pts.)

2. Trace the steps that a bill takes in becoming a law.

   Steps should include Introduction, First Reading and assignment of a number, Committee Assignment, Committee Hearing, Second Reading and voting, perhaps amendments, Engrossment, Third Reading, Sending to Other Chamber, Enrollment and signatures, Implementation. (At least 10 points, with explanations, probably 25)

3. Describe the legislative leadership, including how each leader is chosen and what he/she is expected to do.

   Answer should include: President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, chosen by the majority party caucus to preside over the respective houses. President Pro Tempore and Speaker Pro Tempore, also chosen by majority caucus, to serve in their absences. Majority Leaders for each house chosen by majority caucuses plan and control the order of business. Majority Whips help the leaders as needed and make sure party members vote. Chosen by the minority party, Minority Leaders and Whips have similar functions but less power. (Giving a point for each leader, four points for method of choice, and four for duties--20 points.)

4. Explain the reason for the committee system and why it is important.

   Since all legislators don't have time to study all the bills in depth, the committee system allows some of them to study, hear testimony, discuss, and make recommendations to the whole on a few bills. It is important because much of the legislative work is done in committee and the committee pretty well determines the fate of a bill. (7 points)

5. Explain how the Governor fits into the legislative process.

   The Governor can veto a bill, which requires 2/3 vote to override. By explaining his reasons for veto, he may influence legislators to amend. He can veto items in appropriation bills. (3 points)

6. Explain how to write a letter to a legislator, including some helpful hints about what to say and when to write.

   See the section on letter-writing. (Up to a possible 15 points)

7. Explain lobbying and give your opinions about why it is good or bad, or both.

   Lobbying is an organized effort by groups or individuals to influence legislation. Lobbyists must be licensed. Some students may find it helpful because it brings facts to the attention of legislators and because organizations whose interests are important need a means of communicating their needs to government. Students may be offended by possible bribery, not only in the form of money (illegal), but in favors, dinners, drinks, etc. They could also point out that those interests who cannot afford to hire lobbyists are left out of this process.
   (5-15 points)

8. If you were going to the Legislature (again), what would you do to get the most out of your visit?

   Answers will vary. (5-10 points)

9. If you were a legislator, what job would you like to have (Majority Leader, committee chairperson, etc.); why would you be well-suited; and what would you want to accomplish?

   Answers will vary. (10-20 points)

10. What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of our legislative system in Montana?

    Answers will vary. (10-20 points)

TEST KEY

Multiple Choice

b 1. The Montana Senate is composed of a) 25 b) 50 c) 75 d) 100 members.

d 2. The Montana House of Representatives is composed of a) 25 b) 50 c) 75 d) 100 members.

b 3. Construction began on the Montana Capitol in a) 1855 b) 1899 c) 1915 d) 1958.

a 4. The subject of most paintings in the Montana Capitol is a) history b) landscape c) still life d) varied.

c 5. The Montana Legislature meets every a) six months b) year c) two years d) three years.

b 6. The official who controls the order of business in each chamber is the a) Majority Whip b) Majority Leader c) President or Speaker d) Governor.

b 7. The majority of legislative work is done in a) business sessions of the House or Senate b) committees c) the Supreme Court d) the Governor's office.

d 8. Committees that try to resolve differences in bills from the Senate and the House are called a) standing b) select c) joint d) conference commitees.

d 9. The informal time committees use to discuss bills without public input is called a) conferencing b) secret session c) business meeting d) executive session.

c 10. The committee chairperson is important because a) he assigns bills to his committee b) he can decide if the public can testify c) he can set the order of the bills to be discussed d) all of these.

b 11. The entire chamber acts as a "Committee of the Whole" during the a) first reading b) second reading c) third reading d) engrossment.

b 12. In order to override the Governor's veto, the Legislature must pass a motion to override by a) simple majority vote b) two-thirds majority vote c) three-fourths majority vote.

b 13. Most non-appropriation bills that become law are implemented a)immediately b) on October 1 of the legislative year c) a few years after being passed d) the following January.

d 14. The systematic arrangement of all permanent state statutes is in a) Laws of Montana b) Status Sheets c) Daily Calendar d) The Montana Code Annotated.

a 15. The proper form of address for a Senator or Representative is a) The Honorable b) Mr. or Ms. c) Your Grace d) The Venerable.

d 16. Lobbying a) is a legitimate function b) generally requires a license c) provides additional information to legislators d) all of these.

C 17. The Senate and House Chambers are located on the Capitol's a) first b) second c) third d) fourth floor.

a 18. You can watch the proceedings of the Legislature from the a) galleries b) chambers c) closed-circuit televisions d) Rotunda.

C 19. The high school students who carry messages to the legislators are called a) sergeants b) gophers c) pages d) cubs.

a 20. If the sign "Two-Hour Rule in Effect" is posted at the chamber entrance, it means that a) the public is not allowed in b) business starts in two hours c) the legislators can chat with constituents d) lobbyists are working in the chambers.

True or False

F 21. The Senate completely changes membership every four years.

F 22. Each of Montana's counties is a legislative district.

T 23. The Senate Chamber was remodeled in the 1960s.

T 24. The House of Representatives is in an addition to the Capitol.

T 25. When a bill is voted upon during third reading, no amendments may be considered.

T 26. The length of a regular legislative session is 90 legislative days.

F 27. Every legislator is a member of at least four committees.

F 28. Standing committees are committees that are so large that the members cannot sit down at the tables provided.

T 29. In a committee hearing, proponents (supporters) of a bill are heard before opponents (those against it).

F 30. A committee has only two options: to recommend that a bill be passed or to recommend "Do Not Pass."

F 31. Testifiers must be 18 years old and Montana citizens.

T 32. Appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

F 33. The sponsor of the bill assigns it a number.

T 34. SB 21 means Senate Bill number twenty-one.

T 35. During second reading, the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate steps down and assigns another legislator to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

F 36. A bill must be passed before its amendments can be voted upon.

T 37. A bill must pass both the House and the Senate in the same version before it can go to the Governor.

F 38. A bill must be signed by the Governor to become a law.

F 39. There are 99 volumes of books in the Montana Codes.

T 40. The information desk in the Rotunda has seating charts of both chambers and committee hearing schedules.

Fill In the Blanks

41. A proposed change, addition, or deletion to a bill is called a/an *amendment*.

42. A group of legislators with a common interest is a/an *caucus*.

43. After second reading, putting the bill in final form, with all amendments, is called *engrossment*.

44. After passing both houses, reproducing the bill in final form is called *enrollment*.

45. To present evidence for or against a bill at a hearing is to *testify*.

46. The method by which people or groups with special concerns, needs, or opinions try to persuade legislators to support their policies is called *lobbying*.

47. Two sources you can check to see which bills will be considered by each chamber during the day's business are

the electronic billboard

48. and *the Daily Agenda from the information booth.*

49. Copies of bills and "Status Sheets" can be purchased in the

Capitol's *basement mail room.*

50. The figure on the top of the Capitol Dome is called

Lady Liberty or Liberty.

Essay Questions

(The teacher may choose from the following.)

1. Describe the Capitol, its history, its decor, what impresses you about it, the statues and paintings, its floor plan, or any aspects that you would like to report.

2. Trace the steps that a bill takes in becoming a law.

3. Describe the legislative leadership, including how each leader is chosen and what he or she is expected to do.

4. Explain the reason for the committee system and why it is important.

5. Explain how the Governor fits into the legislative process.

6. Explain how to write a letter to a legislator, including some helpful hints about what to say and when to write.

7. Explain lobbying and give your opinions about why it is good or bad, or both.

8. If you were going to the Legislature (again), what would you do to get the most out of your visit?

9. If you were a legislator, what job would you like to have (Majority Leader, committee chairperson, etc.); why would you be well-suited; and what would you want to accomplish?

10. What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of our legislative system in Montana?

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